

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TOWN HALL – 201 DELAWARE STREET – NEW CASTLE, DE  
WEDNESDAY – APRIL 24, 2002 – 4:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Council President Castagno  
Councilman Balascio  
Councilman DiAngelo  
Councilwoman Dr. Miller  
Councilman Reese

**Also Present:** Mayor John Klingmeyer; Robert Martin, City Administrator.

**Motion to reconsider and override Mayor's veto of Ordinance #404 amending the Zoning Code of the Mayor and Council of New Castle to re-zone three (3) from Retail Commercial (RC) to Service Commercial (SC). The following three (3) properties will be affected:**

<b>Dempsey's Diner -</b>	<b>(Parcel #21-027.00-013)</b>
<b>Soda Town</b>	<b>(Parcel #21-027.00-014)</b>
<b>Texaco</b>	<b>(Parcel #21-027.00-012)</b>

Dr. Miller moved to reconsider and override Mayor's veto. It was seconded by Mr. Balascio. Roll call vote: Mr. Balascio, yes. Mr. DiAngelo, yes. Dr. Miller, yes. Mr. Reese, yes. Motion carries.

Mr. DiAngelo – Since we are concerned about beautification of City entrance appoint a committee to look at this situation. Have some sketches drawn. Cost of planting, lights, etc. and how to budget money. Do so many feet or yards per year?

Dr. Miller – Agrees this needs to be done. Also, talk to Trustees.

Mr. Castagno – Says Mr. Martin has been working with Landmark Engineering, Del Dot, and Mr. Stat. Considering Quigley Boulevard as entrance to City.

Mr. Martin – The intersection is definitely to be brick with antique traffic lights. Still working on getting funding. Working hard to get a traffic light installed. Street lights are not in program due to cost.

Mr. Reese – Who funded the light in Greenville?

Mr. Martin – The Department of Transportation through Suburban Street Funds. We are trying to get aide.

Mr. Castagno – Need a “Welcome to New Castle” sign.

Dr. Miller – Start communicating with Trustees and citizens. A letter would be appropriate.

Mr. Castagno – Council feels something should be done. Who wants to write the letter?

Dr. Miller – Should come from President of Council.

Mr. Castagno – Will write a letter in conjunction with Mr. Martin.

Mayor Klingmeyer – Already addressed how important entrance is to the City. No opposition to zoning.

Mr. Castagno – Will write letter to Trustees concerning special consideration for entrance way to the City.

Mayor Klingmeyer – Have spoken to Richard Stat at Farmer’s Market. Interested in updating the area.

**Third and final reading and motion to adopt into law as an Ordinance of the municipality Ordinance #405 amending the Zoning Code by adding a new definition of “Driveway” to Section #203-1 and by amending the Supplementary District Regulations Section #230-28 by adding a new subsection “D” limiting the size of driveways.**

Mr. Castagno read the changes in Ordinance and in subsection “D”.

Earl Carpenter – In the requirement does it say whichever is less?

Mr. Balascio – It says more.

Earl Carpenter – One could be more than other.

Mr. Castagno – 40% portion could be more.

Mr. Balascio – Maximum 12 feet as related to 30 feet or 40%.

Earl Carpenter – New homes are less than 12 feet, like the homes across from the Middle School.

Mr. Castagno – Property less than 16 feet wide. Have a driveway that is 8 feet wide.

Mr. Balascio motioned to adopt Ordinance #405. It was seconded by Mr. Reese. Roll call vote: Mr. Balascio, yes. Mr. DiAngelo, yes. Dr. Miller, yes. Mr. Reese, yes. Motion passed.

**Third and final reading and motion to adopt into law as an Ordinance of the Municipality Parking Ordinance #399 with amendments.**

Mr. Balasico explains the changes in Ordinance #399. Read changes in the Ordinance.

Mr. Balascio motioned to adopt into law Ordinance #399. It was seconded by Mr. Reese. Roll call vote: Mr. Balascio, yes. Mr. DiAngelo, yes. Dr. Miller, yes. Mr. Reese, yes. Motion passed.

**Discussion on "New" Cops Grant.**

Mr. Reese – The Cops Grant, \$75,000/Officer over three years. Permission to fill out 50 page application. If we send in now likely to get Grant. If we wait, we will be further down list. Would like Council's permission to apply for Grant.

Dr. Miller – Thought that program was dismantled.

Mr. Reese – The program did get dismantled but is good for one more year.

Dr. Miller – How many police will we have?

Mr. Reese – We now have 15 and it will take us to 18.

Dr. Miller – Will this stabilize us?

Mr. Reese – Until Office Depot comes in. Always unforeseen problems.

Dr. Miller – Trying to get clarification.

Mr. Balascio – Will put us right on track.

Mayor Klingmeyer – With the annexation of Parkway Gravel has anyone estimated the cost. When grants run out will police budget run rampant. Increasing part of City budget.

Mr. Reese – 15 officers in 1970. Difference in quality of life for your money.

Mayor Klingmeyer – Time that is being consumed by annexation. Does not effect quality of life in New Castle. At what point are we going to look at the budget.

Mr. Reese – Service costs are about 12% of budget.

Mr. Balascio – Council went through very detailed analysis before annexation (present and future cost).

Mr. Castagno – Department review is due. 32% of budget spent on public safety. Will be discussed in workshop format.

Earl Carpenter – You said Office Depot. It is Home Depot not Office Depot. This will be Eastern Corporate Headquarters.

Mary Jane Robinson – If you apply for this Grant to hire two (2) additional officers are you obligated to keep officers after the Grant runs out. Could they possibly be laid off. Cannot keep police at the detriment of budget. Can Grant be used for existing police.

Mr. Reese – No, cannot be used for existing police.

Mr. Castagno – Exercise option to apply for Grant.

Flo Russell - Utilize police for annexation then install a business wage tax.

Mr. Castagno – By Charter we cannot have a city wage tax.

Flo Russell – Change Charter.

Mayor Klingmeyer – Could do that. Cannot comment. Research state law.

Flo Russell – Have Council check into a wage tax.

Mr. Reese – Adjusted business permits. Have increased revenue.

Mr. Castagno – Need to go to workshop. Figure out what we need. Understand what our investment is. Need to do a feasibility analysis.

Mr. Reese – Two other police issues:

1. In the budget Police Chief McDerby applied for a police car. Wants to change to two (2) Dodge Stratus for \$26,000.00 (next year's budget).
2. Nick on bicycle patrol is leaving. Want to hire two (2) bicycle patrol and send to Rehoboth for training. Partially paid for by Park Commission.

**Discussion on funding for development of park land on Young Street and storm drainage issues at 11<sup>th</sup> Street Condos.**

Mr. Martin – Young Street needs a development survey done at a cost of \$1,000.00. Enough money in budget for \$1,000.00 worth of top soil for Young Street. Submit Grant for water conservation for development of the park. Bushes donated. Started a berm on edge.

Mr. Balascio – Can the opposite side of street be included at this time.

Mr. Martin – Yes, can be done.

Mr. Balascio – On Ninth Street, there is blacktop blocking storm drain.

Mr. Martin – Can remove blacktop. Also, it will take about two weeks to get study done. 11<sup>th</sup> Street Condos have been a problem for a long time. We can have a study for \$8,000.00 by New Castle Soil and Water Conservation District. Remedial cost, no idea until study is done. Complete plan will be given. Alleviate the flooding on people's lawns from Route #273 to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Attended a meeting in Dover and heard a presentation of a new retention pond concept. Using one at the University of Delaware. It is attractive and very effective.

Janet Koczak – Wet basement problem.

Mr. Martin – Study will show all problems. Ground water coming from a lot of places.

Flo Russell – Why are you building a park when we have Susi Park.

Mr. Castagno – Not a park, is green space.

Flo Russell – Understand Washington Square has a drainage problem. Washington Park also has wet basements and water in yards.

Mr. Martin – Whole drainage problem of Washington Park must be looked at by professionals.

Flo Russell – Cannot do anything in the backyard. Must be filled in every year.

Charlotte Houben – Quarter of yard is caving in. Does not understand how one pipe can effect all houses.

Mr. DiAngelo – Put in budget to have a study done.

Mary Jane Robinson – Serious look at drainage problem of Washington Park and Castle Ridge with annexation. It will cause a bigger problem. The Greenway will end right at Washington Park.

Mr. Castagno – We are working with Greenway project. Original plan was to connect Battery Park with Riverfront Park in Wilmington. Looking at Washington Park. Get design and private funding. Hoping by summer.

**Approval of Bank Resolution for:**

- a. \$46,764.00 to pay Merit Construction Engineers, Inc. Contract #2001-02 – “Delaware Street Wharf Stabilization” – Estimate #3 period ending on March 31, 2002.**
- b. \$30,000.00 to pay Greggo and Ferrara for installation of street improvements on Buttonwood Avenue.**
- c. \$36,141.72 to pay Greggo and Ferrara for installation of street improvements on Buttonwood Avenue.**

Project was funded by private donations, Marvin, Keystone, Greggo and Ferrara, Trustee, Representative Houghton, Municipal Street Aide, and State Bond – Bill. The reason for two (2) bills was due to the funding contributions.

Dr. Miller motioned to approve Bank Resolutions. It was seconded by Mr. Reese. Motion passed.

Mr. Castagno – Is there a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Miller motioned to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Reese.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Toner  
City Clerk